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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 9901**
Eiji KODO et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2004_0557A
Serial No. 10/826,408 : Group Art Unit 2832
Filed April 19, 2004 : Examiner Kyung S. Lee
SWITCH DEVICE : **Mail Stop AMENDMENT**

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the comments presented below.

In items 2-6 on pages 2-5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 12-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Decker et al. (U.S. 6,404,354); claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decker; and claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decker in view of Moller (U.S. 5,380,965). These rejections are respectfully traversed, and it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to Figs. 1 and 2, independent claim 1 sets forth a switch device comprising: an operating member 12 having a cam member 12B provided with a protruding portion 13; a plurality of switches 20, 21 that engage the cam member 12B and output electric ON/OFF states based on the operation of the operating member 12; and a detecting section 27 connected to the plurality of switches 20, 21 for detecting a position of operation of the operating member 12 based on the electric ON/OFF states of the plurality of switches 20, 21.